

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8403

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

S E C R E T ANKARA 2126

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, MILI, TU

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT CRISIS: PROSPECTS FOR
ACTION BY ARMED FORCES

1. WHILE THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT MILITARY INTERVENTION
IN TURKISH POLITICAL PROCESS IS LIKELY, LOGIC RATHER THAN
EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT LIKELIHOOD IS GROWING. WE NOTE,
FOR EXAMPLE:

A. AS AT TIME OF 1960 AND 1971 INTERVENTIONS, COUNTRY'S
SITUATION HAS SERIOUSLY DETERIORATED ON SEVERAL FRONTS AND
POLITICAL PARTIES SEEM UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO FORM GOVERNMENT
CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH PROBLEMS.

B. POLITICAL INSTABILITY SINCE OCTOBER 1973 ELECTIONS HAS SHOWN
CRIPPLING DEFICIENCIES IN POLITICAL SYSTEM ITSELF. THESE
INCLUDE ELECTION LAW WHICH IS FAVORABLE TO PROLIFERATION OF
SMALL PARTIES, AND MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO PRODUCE A STRONG GOVERNMENT
AND WEAK PRESIDENCY BUILT INTO CONSTITUTION.

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C. GOVERNMENT CRISIS HAS CAUSED WIDELY FELT DISGUST -- AMONG

CIVILIANS AS WELL AS MILITARY -- TOWARD POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS, WHO ARE CONSIDERED BY MANY TO HAVE PUT PARTY INTEREST AHEAD OF NATIONAL INTEREST IN PROLONGING CRISIS. AS FORMER CABINET MINISTER KASIM GULEK OBSERVED TO US RECENTLY, "IF THE MILITARY INTERVENED NOW, THE PUBLIC WOULD THINK IT WAS JUSTIFIED."

2. IF ARMED FORCES DID MOVE, INFORMATION WE HAVE SUGGESTS THAT OBJECTIVE WOULD NOT BE TO TAKE OVER GOVERNMENT AS IN TYPICAL MILITARY COUP, BUT RATHER TO HELP GET DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT BACK ON TRACKS. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE IS SPECULATION THAT IF ALL OTHER EFFORTS TO END GOVERNMENT CRISIS FAIL, PRESIDENT KORUTURK MIGHT RESORT TO EXTRA-CONSTITUTIONAL ACTION OF DISSOLVING PARLIAMENT AND DECREETING NEW ELECTIONS. SUCH MOVE NO DOUBT WOULD BE MADE WITH MILITARY'S SUPPORT.

3. FOR TIME BEING, HOWEVER, PATIENCE OF SENIOR MILITARY COMMANDERS, WHILE SORELY TRIED, APPEARS TO BE UNDER CONTROL. WE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT THIS MAY BE LESS TRUE AT MIDDLE AND LOWER LEVEL RANKS. SENIOR ECHELONS APPEAR TO BE AWARE OF LATTER PROBLEM AND ARE APPARENTLY TAKING MEASURES TO HEAD OFF POSSIBILITY OF RASH ACTION BY THEIR JUNIOR COLLEAGUES. MACOMBER

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